

October 29, 2003

**Public Notice for 401 Certification
Mendocino County Department of Transportation
Dos Rios/Laytonville Eel River Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project
WDID No. 1B03082WNME**

Mendocino County

On May 12, 2003, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application and a \$1,000 fee from Mendocino County Department of Transportation (DOT) requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification for Eel River Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project in Mendocino County, California. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the Middle Fork Eel River located in the Eel River Hydrologic Unit No. 111.00.

Mendocino County DOT proposes to seismic retrofit the Eel River Bridge on Laytonville-Dos Rios Road east of Dos Rios. The bridge was constructed in 1966 and was determined to be at risk of catastrophic failure during a seismic event. The existing seven-span bridge consists of reinforced concrete slab and steel girder spans with reinforced concrete-closed abutments and reinforced concrete piers and columns on steel piles, except for Abutments 1 and 9 and Bent 3, which have spread footings. Mendocino County DOT proposes to retrofit bridge footings at Piers 4 and 5. Both footings would be enlarged from 40 ft by 12 ft to 48 ft by 20 ft; tie downs would be added at Pier 4; and H-piles would be added to Pier 5. Construction access is proposed via existing tracks that have been previously disturbed.

This project will result in permanent disturbance to approximately 0.01 acre and temporary disturbance of 0.3 acre of perennial drainage along the Eel and Middle Fork Eel Rivers in addition to 0.06 acre of upland and riparian vegetation.

Noncompensatory mitigation for this project includes the use of Best Management Practices. These include erosion control specifications, implementation of a spill prevention plan, reseeded of disturbed vegetation areas and sealing or curing concrete to be poured for 30 day or more prior to contact with any water.

Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341). Staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period beginning on the posting date of this notice. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Miguel Villicana at (707) 576-2347, or at villm@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov.